

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) Support bearing for a roll, adapted to be immersed in a liquid metal bath, defining a first rotation axis, comprising a first bush fitted coaxially on pins at the end of a roll and with substantially cylindrical outer surface, a second bush fixed to a supporting element of the roll wherein the first bush is held inside the second bush rotatingly around the axis, wherein the second bush has an outer convex surface defining a toroidal surface wherein the first and second bush define, during operation, a reciprocal contact surface throughout their common length, the second bush is positioned inside a retaining ring of the supporting element, said retaining ring having a cylindrical inner surface whereby the bearing is suitable to rotate, substantially without friction, around a second axis orthogonal to the first axis characterised in that the first bush has at least one axial helical groove on the outer surface and the second bush has one or more substantially axial longitudinal grooves on the inner surface.

2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein a first of said longitudinal grooves is positioned before the reciprocal contact surface in order to create an accumulation of liquid metal, suitable for lubricating and cooling, and a second of said longitudinal grooves is positioned after said reciprocal contact surface.

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the second bush is kept in place by plates welded to a bearing support.

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the clearance between the first bush and the second bush is ~~preferably~~ less than 1 mm.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)